



From the series... *Lupita*, #50
Epson Archival Print. 26"x38".
Ignacio Rivera

I use photography as a medium of documentation to display my life as, Lupita Olivia, a gender-fluid person. As I express myself fully, I am learning to be more vulnerable, more open-minded, and more understanding; to be confident as a woman and as an individual who is surviving a dominant binary system. The images serve as a way for the viewer to see the evolution of myself navigating through life and the interactions that occur within personal and with the world at large. The purpose of this type of artwork is to express my autonomy fully as a vulnerable gesture to the audience. It is a chance for the people to embrace the complicated and contradictory lives of individuals who are within the transgender-spectrum. We are at a moment in history where the trans-community has a voice to be heard, to be different, and to be accepted.

In my research, I was inspired by the works from numerous artists in particular Sadie Benning and duo couple, Zackary Drucker and Rhys Ernst. In the early '90s, Benning documented herself in her bedroom with a toy camera expressing interest of her sexual identity and body image as a lesbian teen. 24 years later, Drucker and Ernst did a similar approach in documenting each other bodies and relationship. The duo documented the love for each other as they transitioned from one gender to another in domestic and intimate spaces.